

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings:

1. (Currently amended) A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery comprising:
a band-shaped positive electrode[[,]];
at least one separator made of a polypropylene microporous film[[,]]; and
a band-shaped negative electrode,~~the negative electrode comprising~~ consisting of a
graphite containing material,
wherein[[:]],
 - (1) the relationship $G_s = H_{sg}/H_{sd} \leq 10$ holds for the negative electrode, G_s
being the degree of graphitization, H_{sg} being the height of a surface enhanced
Raman spectrum signal having a peak within the range of 1580 cm^{-1} to 1620 cm^{-1} ,
both inclusive, and H_{sd} being the height of a surface enhanced Raman spectrum
signal having a peak within the range of 1350 cm^{-1} to 1400 cm^{-1} , both
inclusive[[;]],
 - (2) said graphite containing material comprises graphite particles having
structural differences between an inside of the particles and an outermost surface
of the particles[[;]], ~~and~~
 - (3) said graphite containing material is [[r]] characterized by[[:]]
 - (a) the graphite particles having a rhombohedral structure[[;]],
 - (b) exhibiting at least two separate peaks on a differential
thermogravimetric curve as obtained by thermogravimetric analysis in an
airflow, ~~and~~

(c) the outermost surface of the graphite particles exhibiting a weight reduction as measured by a differentiation of the thermogravimetric curve of at least 5% and at most 40% relative to the inside of the particles[[:]],
and

(d) having a saturated tapping density of 1.2 g / cm³ or more,

(4) ~~the negative electrode is~~ graphite particles are pressed such that the specific surface area of the graphite is increased by at least 2.5 times that of the specific surface area before being pressed[[:]], and

(5) the band-shaped positive electrode, one of the at least one separators, the band shaped negative electrode and a second of the at least one separators are stacked together in that order.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery comprising:

a band-shaped positive electrode[[:]],

a band-shaped negative electrode[[:]], and

at least one separator made of a polypropylene microporous film and a non-aqueous electrolyte,

wherein,

(1) the negative electrode contains graphite containing material, ~~said graphite containing material~~ comprising graphite particles having structural differences between an inside of the particles and an outermost surface of the particles, wherein said graphite containing material is characterized by a saturated tapping density of ~~1.0~~ 1.2 g / cm³ or more, ~~and~~

(2) the outermost surface of the graphite particles exhibits a weight reduction as measured by a differentiation of a thermogravimetric curve as obtained by thermogravimetric analysis in an airflow of at least 5% and at most 40% relative to the inside of the particles,

(3) the ~~negative electrode is~~ graphite particles are pressed such that the specific surface area of the graphite is increased by at least 2.5 times that of the specific surface area before being pressed, and

(4) the band-shaped positive electrode, one of the at least one separators, the band shaped negative electrode and a second of the at least one separators are stacked together in that order.

4. (Currently amended) A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary battery comprising:
a band-shaped positive electrode~~[[,]]~~;

a band-shaped negative electrode including a graphite containing material~~[[,]]~~; and
at least one separator made of a polypropylene microporous film, and a non-aqueous electrolyte,

wherein,

(1) ~~the negative electrode contains a graphite containing material, wherein~~
said graphite containing material comprises graphite particles having structural differences between an inside of the particles and an outermost surface of the particles~~[[,]]~~,

(2) said graphite containing material is characterized by~~[[,]]~~

(a) a packing characteristic index of 0.42 or more,

(b) the graphite particles having a rhombohedral structure, ~~and~~

(c) the outermost surface of the graphite particles exhibiting a weight reduction as measured by a differentiation of a thermogravimetric curve as obtained by thermogravimetric analysis in an airflow of at least 5% and at most 40% relative to the inside of the particles[[:]], and

(d) a saturated tapping density of 1.2 g / cm³ or more,

(3) ~~the negative electrode is~~ graphite particles are pressed such that the specific surface area of the graphite is increased by at least 2.5 times that of the specific surface area before being pressed[[:]], and

(4) the band-shaped positive electrode, one of the at least one separators, the band shaped negative electrode and a second of the at least one separators are stacked together in that order.

5.-46. (Cancelled)